



Mohammad Hasan Ali of Raiganj thana in Sirajganj district seen with the mini-truck which he rigged up using a shallow tube well irrigation pump — a tribute to ingenuity. — Star photo

Irrigation pump-driven mini truck

By Masud Hasan Khan

No government support and no foreign aid — all Md. Hasan Ali needed was a little imagination and innovation. And the result was an irrigation pump-driven mini truck!

The achievement of Ali, a resident of Raiganj thana in Sirajganj district, is unique since he installed an irrigation pump in the body of a mini truck — and not in a country boat as is practised.

He bought a gear box, steering system, wheels, brakes, leaf springs and other parts of an old and out of use truck.

Then he bought steel angle-bars from a local market and got the chassis of the mini truck built from a welding shop.

When the chassis was ready, Ali assembled all the parts and put it to accommodate two passengers.

Later, he installed a 16-horse-power irrigation pump and connected its fly wheel to the shaft of the truck's gear box.

When the engine is switched on, its power is driven to the back wheel of the mini truck through the gear box.

The speed control lever of the irrigation pump is connected to the accelerator and the brake system to control speed.

The mini truck which can carry three tons of load can speed up to 30 to 40 km an hour.

The fuel consumption of the truck is rather high with an average mileage of 14 km per liter.

Ali had to spend Taka 50 thousand to build his mini truck.

However, the cost would be higher if a better breed is desired, said a Senior Sub-Assistant Engineer of the Grameen Bank at Bogra. He said that Hasan Ali rarely brings out his truck on the road for lack of registration, blue book and road permit.

Yet, the people of Chandakona bazar, where Ali lives, share the pride of the innovator as he occasionally drives his pump-driven truck.

Govt has failed to repeal black laws : Kamal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 11: The Convenor of Gono Forum Dr Kamal Hossain today said the government has failed to repeal black laws or separate the judiciary from the executive.

He was addressing a meeting at the Aswini Kumar Hall here this afternoon.

The Gono Forum, Barisal unit arranged the meeting which was chaired by its president Enayet Pir Khan.

Earlier, Dr Kamal met local lawyers at the Bar Association auditorium and exchanged views with local journalists at the Circuit House.

BSS adds: Talking to the reporters Dr Kamal said, the prolonged boycott of Parliament sessions could by no means help resolve the political crises facing both the party-in-power and the opposition.

He suggested a meaningful and unconditional dialogue to find out ways and means of overcoming the deadlock. The dialogue, he suggested, must be open and made transparent so that people may know which party was saying what.

There should be no hide-and-seek between the political parties and the people on issues of great importance to the nation," he added.

2 get 10 yrs RI for terrorism

CHITTAGONG, June 11: The first additional session and Anti-Terrorism Tribunal Judge Syed Enayet Ullah here today sentenced two persons to ten years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer six months more imprisonment on charge of terrorism and hijacking, reports BSS.

The two convicted persons were M Solaiman alias Sohel, son of Mannan Sheikh of Model Ganj, district Bagerhat and Gulam Rusul alias Babul, son of M Ishaque of Rauzan, Chittagong.

The prosecution story is that the convicted persons while snatching away taka three lakh from one Shamsul Alam, director of a garments factory at Agrabad were caught by patrol police on July 14, 1993. The snatchers during their action exploded crackers and injured Shamsul Alam.

A case was filed with Double Mooring police in this connection. Police submitted chargesheet against the accused.

The judge examined eight witnesses in the case and found the accused guilty.

Sino-CIS talks on reduction of border troops end

BEIJING, June 11: China and four members of the Commonwealth of Independent States have ended a 12th round of talks here on troops reduction along their common borders, Xinhua news agency reported, says AFP.

The agency, in a dispatch late Friday, gave no details of the talks between China and a joint delegation of Kazakhstan, Kirghizistan, Russia and Tajikistan which opened here May 23.

Japanese investors

From Page 1 Col 5

ideal areas for Japanese capital and knowhow," Begum Zia hoped and cited some other potential sectors like shrimp culture or hatchery, electronics, tourism and hotel industry.

Referring to the creation of a task force, headed by the special envoy of the Prime Minister, she said the Board of Investment had also been restructured to extend facilities to the private sector.

She also mentioned the infrastructural facilities, including ports and container services and improved road, sea and air communication with the rest of the world.

Bangladesh is also in a convenient place to reach Europe, USA, East Asia and Middle Asia.

"Our government is committed to creating a conducive atmosphere for the private investment from both home and abroad," the Prime Minister said and assured all government cooperation in investment in Bangladesh.

She gave a proposal to the Keidanren mission for setting up a Japan-Bangladesh Business Cooperation and Economic Committee to help improve the enabling environment for investment.

"It would also assist in the rapid expansion of investment and trade between our two friendly countries," she said and hoped that the visit of the mission would lead to direct investment by next year.

Reciprocating, Kazuo Haruna, also Vice Chairman of the Keidanren mission, said this visit would yield a positive result in making Japanese investment in Bangladesh by next year.

"Although the government-level relations between the two countries are very strong, it's very unfortunate that the private level-relations are insignificant," he said stressing the need for cooperation among private sectors of the two countries.

The mission leader emphasised that an effective committee was needed for accelerating investment and trade between the two countries.

He hoped despite their brief trip to Bangladesh, they would be able to find out areas of investment in the country.

7 more units

From Page 1 Col 7

Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

The seven industrial units in the CEPZ are a Bangladesh-Australia joint venture enterprise manufacturing cane furniture, a Japanese unit manufacturing rope and synthetic fibres, a Hong Kong owned unit manufacturing hats, two Malaysian industries manufacturing spare parts and bicycles, a Korean industry of dyeing and printing and another Bangladesh unit manufacturing jeans cloth, according to officials.

The Chittagong Export Processing Zone located near the country's major port here, became operational in 1983 with only a few industrial units. Now the number of fully operational units stands at around 55. Of them Japan tops the list with 14 enterprises alone while Korea stands second with 13 industrial units.

Most of the industries which suffered damages in the catastrophic cyclone of April, 1991 have already recovered their losses, according to officials.

Meanwhile, in a bid to restore the confidence of foreign investors the government has started construction of an 18 km long embankment around CEPZ to protect it from tidal surge.

The BOI officials explained the opportunities and facilities offered by Bangladesh to investors from Japan.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

PM inaugurates NIMCO Training must to develop human resource

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia yesterday laid the foundation stone of a modernised international-standard National Mass Communication Institute at Kalyanpur, expressing the hope that it would greatly help human resource development, reports UNB.

"Human resource development is a pre-condition for national development and prosperity. There is no alternative to training in developing human resource and flourishing 'merit', she said and expected that the institute would play proper role in national development and building mediemen as qualified members of the global village."

The permanent bhaban of the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMCO) is being constructed at a cost of Tk 5.58 crore on 2.35 acres of land. The construction work is expected to be completed by June 1995. Japanese government will provide all necessary equipment for the institute upgraded to the international standard.

It will provide all kinds of training to the producers, engineers, cameramen and other personnel concerned with mass communication, including the radio, television and film.

The importance of radio and TV is unquestionable in maintaining direct communication with the people and reflecting their hopes and aspiration, she said. Both the media have been playing an effective role in the advancement of society and culture and spreading education.

The function was also addressed by Information Minister Nazmul Huda, bar-at-law, Mohammad Mohsin MP, Information Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain and Director General of NIMCO Abdullah al-Mamnoon.

Tk 14 lakh looted from Sitakundu Sonali Bank

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 11: A group of unidentified gunmen this morning raided a Sonali Bank branch office at Sitakundu, 30 miles from the city and looted Tk 14 lakh in cash.

The terrorists arrived at Venur bazar of Sitakundu thana by a microbus and stormed into the bank, police said. They looted the bank money at gunpoint and then fled for unknown destination by the same vehicle.

A case was filed with Sitakundu thana but none was arrested so far.

Japan agrees to limited sanctions on DPRK

SEOUL, June 11: Seoul, Washington and Tokyo agreed today to push for measured sanctions against North Korea for its refusal to allow international inspection of its nuclear programme, while leaving the door open to negotiations, reports Reuters.

Peter Tarnoff, US Under-secretary of State for political affairs, met South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and other South Korean officials in Seoul to discuss ways to force Pyongyang into full disclosure of its nuclear capabilities.

The nuclear crisis was triggered by an announcement last week by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that by removing fuel from a nuclear reactor, North Korea had made it impossible for IAEA experts to determine whether nuclear material had been diverted for military use.

lonaire's residence, according to an AFP correspondent at the scene. The aide said he was put under arrest at 4:00 am.

About 100 Abiola supporters had gathered not far from the police cordon, the correspondent said, but there was no sign of unrest.

Teachers

From Page 1 Col 7

teachers' demands and agitation, issued on Thursday, were burnt by the agitators.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Coordinator of the liaison committee Quazi Faruque Ahmed said, "We are determined to continue the sit-in programme until the government accepted our legitimate demands". He, however, said they would meet this morning to decide their next course of action. "We'll continue the agitation. May be its form will change."

Quazi Faruque said, "The government is treating us as its political opponents although we don't belong to any political party. We, having various political beliefs, have united on professional causes", he said.

Workers' Party, JSD (Inu), Ganatan Party, NAP (M), Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Jamaat-e-Islami and JAGPA sent messages to the liaison committee supporting the sit-in.

Central leaders and district representative of the liaison committee addressed the demonstrators.

The speakers alleged that the government was behaving with them in an autocratic manner. They also blamed the Education Minister for the crisis.

Referring to the highest budgetary allocation for the education sector, the teachers' leaders said this did not benefit the teachers, students and employees of the non-government educational institutions.

Abiola put under house arrest

LAGOS, June 11: Moshood Abiola, Nigeria's main Opposition leader and presumed winner of a presidential election last year, was put under house arrest before dawn today, a close aide told AFP.

About 20 riot police armed with assault rifles were deployed outside his home in Ikeja, a residential neighbourhood to the north of the capital, and were blocking anyone from entering or leaving the premises.

Another 60 policemen and an armoured vehicle were stationed at the entrance to the road leading to the Muslim millionaire's residence, according to an AFP correspondent at the scene. The aide said he was put under arrest at 4:00 am.

About 100 Abiola supporters had gathered not far from the police cordon, the correspondent said, but there was no sign of unrest.

Dhaka-UNHCR agreement extended

The Bangladesh UNHCR agreement on repatriation of the Rohingya refugees has been further extended for one month, effecting from today, reports UNB.

It is the second time extension of the accord since it expired on May 12 before completion of the slow-pace repatriation of the quarter of a million Myanmar Muslims who had crossed into Bangladesh three years ago.

The Foreign Secretary and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees initiated the agreement on May 12 last year in Dhaka allowing the UN relief agency to supervise the repatriation of Rohingyas.

The repatriation of the refugees has been stalled following the May 2 devastating cyclone which badly damaged refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts and the reception centres in Myanmar's western frontier state of Arakan.

Police warned Abiola Friday that he would be arrested and charged with treason if he went ahead with a plan to set up a "government of national unity" on Sunday, anniversary of the June 12, 1993 presidential vote.

Last year's presidential polls was declared free and fair by international observers but annulled by the Junta leader General Ibrahim Babangida, who alleged irregularities.

Babangida was succeeded by General Sani Abacha, who seized power last November. Abacha meanwhile is to make a national address on radio early Sunday, his office said in Abuja.

Earlier today a statement by the National Democratic Coalition, which heads the Opposition, said Abiola has decided to put off forming a parallel government for "a few days."

Dialogue: Consensus on reforms necessary

From Page 1 Col 4

Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury, MP, said the government must go for administrative reform by downsizing its manpower.

Prof M Yunus of the Grameen Bank said the politicians should work for making the unpleasant sides of the reform pleasant. "Show the benefits of reform to the people, they will support it," he said.

The second session — on financial sector reform programme (FSRP) — mainly dwelt on two issues — how to bring down the high lending rates of the commercial banks and how much competitive the private banks are.

Opening the discussion, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed said the high interest rates are hurting the quality of investment in the country. He mentioned that although the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) have lowered their lending rates, the private banks have not.

He pointed out that the non-performing funds of the banks which is about 35 per cent of the total advances, is a burden to the banks keeping interest rates high. He also suggested that the loan classification criteria should be brought at par with international standard.

Sohel Rahman of Beximeo said there must prevail a climate that will generate confidence of the investors.

Kazi Abdul Mazid, Managing Director of the National Bank Ltd. (NBL), said the cost of funds for the private banks is higher than that of the NCBs because the former do not get

Abu Nidal may be dead, says Gaddafi

TUNIS, June 11: Shadowy Palestinian guerrilla Abu Nidal may be dead, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, believed to be one of his main sponsors, was quoted on Friday as saying, reports Reuters.

"I believe he is not alive because I have appealed to him to visit and he didn't come," Gaddafi was quoted as telling the US magazine Newsweek in an interview.

Jana M monitored in Tunis, published the full text of the interview on Friday.

Abu Nidal, the world's most wanted political killer whose real name is Sabri al-Banna, has waged a bloody guerrilla war across three continents with murders, bombings and hijacks.

Gunshots

From Page 1 Col 8

building yesterday morning rejecting the proposed national budget.

The BCL leaders termed the budget as 'anti-people budget' and said that this could not be accepted as it was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad in the absence of the Opposition parties.

The rally was addressed by Moinuddin Hasan Chowdhury, Iqbalur Rahim and KHM Liza.

The Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) demanded reduction of allocations in unproductive sectors including defence sector and increase of allocations in the education sector.

The GCO also held a rally in front of the DUCSU building yesterday morning protesting the budget.

The GCO will observe a countrywide demonstration tomorrow to press home their demands.

FBCCI chief

From Page 1 Col 5

form programme in the financial and public sectors would benefit the country.

He urged all, irrespective of party affiliation and opinion, to come forward to play a due role in development activities for the sake of the national economy.

Giving his reaction on the Tk 21,733 crore budget, the leader of the private sector apex body appreciated the proposals on human resource development and alleviation of poverty.

He felt that the overall reduction in the duty structure would help maintain stability in the price structure and stop smuggling.

He hoped the increased allocations in the education, health and family welfare, rural electrification and rural infrastructure, fisheries and livestock and social welfare sectors would contribute significantly to the economic growth and social welfare.

The FBCCI president recommended further rise in the ceiling of personal income tax to Tk 72000 and said fixing minimum income tax at Tk 1200 was a burden. The present limit of tax-free income (proposed to be raised to Tk 55,000 from Tk 50,000) is not consistent with the present living cost, he said.

Mahbubur Rahman called for complete abolition of the system of valuation on the basis of customs collectorate's assessment.

Welcoming the proposal for the formation of a tax settlement commission, he said there must be representatives from the FBCCI to settle appeal cases.

Ahaz Shaqur Rahman, vice president of FBCCI, was also present at the press conference.

The Midnight File

170 massacred in Rwanda

KIGALI, June 11: Hutu militiamen have kidnapped some 170 people mainly from the minority Tutsi tribe, including many children, in a district southwest of the Rwandan capital Kigali, two priests told journalists here today. The priests said that they saw the bodies of more than 10 who had been killed in Nyamiramb and that they were certain that all the other refugees seized by the Hutus had been massacred, reports AFP.

PPP Secretary General's son gunned down

LAHORE, June 11: A son of the Secretary General of Pakistan's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was shot dead here today, police said. Taufeeq Ahmed, 32, son of PPP Secretary General Sheikh Rafiq Ahmed, a Senator, was gunned down by three assailants, they said, reports AFP.

UP secretaries to get gratuity

The government has decided to pay gratuity to the union parishad secretaries equivalent to salary for 50 months and an amount of Tk 50 lakh has been allocated for the purpose, reports BSS.

This was announced by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder while addressing the biennial conference of the Bangladesh Union Parishad Secretaries Samity as the chief guest at the Institution of Engineers in the capital yesterday.

Presided over by saunity president Golam Rasul, the

function was addressed by the chief adviser of the samity, Mokaddam Hossain, samity adviser and Kayetpara Union Parishad Chairman Nuruzzaman Khan, samity's general secretary, Kamar Uddin Molah, UP Chairman Samity's vice president Habibur Rahman Ripon, president of the Gram Police Samity, H M Raifed, senior vice president of the samity Kazi Nuruzzaman, Abdus Sattar, S M Surat Alam and UP secretary Javed Ali.

The LGRD Minister said the government had allocated Tk 3.35 crore to pay its share of salary for the union parishad secretaries. In addition to this, the ministry has sought allocation of Tk 46 lakh to pay increment to the UP secretaries, he said adding the deputy commissioners had been asked to take steps so that the secretaries get the government's share of their salary in time.

Bail prayers

From Page 1 Col 5

served in rejecting their bail petitions.

Earlier, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate rejected their bail prayers on June 8 just after their arrest in a criminal case.

Against the CMM's order, the accused filed a criminal miscellaneous case in the judge court and prayed for ad-interim bail.

Meanwhile, more organisations in statements yesterday condemned the arrest of the journalists and demanded their release.

They said the government is trying to gag the press and stifle the freedom of opinion by arresting the journalists. The action against the daily Janakantha showed that the government supported the anti-liberation forces.

The signatories to the statements expressed concern at the government failure to take actions against those attacked the newspaper offices.

Joint and separate statements were issued by 78 lawyers of Khulna, President of the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association, Uttaran Sangskritik Sangha, 27 teachers of the Jahangirnagar University and the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

Prokrichi strike

From Page 1 Col 8

ernment has failed to keep its promise," he told the newsmen. "The bureaucracy in a subtle way has tarnished the image of the government."

"We are now convinced that the government wants to please a vested quarter in the bureaucracy by repressing and harassing the professionals," he said.

The Prokrichi Chairman also alleged that the government actions against the Prokrichi leaders were highly motivated.

Leaders at the press conference said that they had met several times with the authorities, where the ministers assured the Prokrichi leaders of considering their demands.

However, all the decisions taken during the meeting remained suspended due to what they alleged, 'conspiracies' by the members of the administration cadre.

The three-day strike is likely to be observed at all the relevant offices.

Professionals on duty in the emergency medical services at the hospitals, power and gas supply, telecommunication, police and ansars, customs, examinations under the university and different educational boards, the Jatiya Sangsad and visiting foreign delegation have been exempted.

Some 70 thousand doctors, engineers, agriculturists, teachers and members of the 26 non-administrative BCS cadre have long been campaigning to press home their 17-point charter of demands.

Their demands included complete overhauling of the present administrative system separation of the judiciary from the executive, removal of the service anomalies created by the Matin Committee, formulation of the Rules of Business, and handing over the executive power of the ministries to the concerned ministers.